Message Text

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43

ACTION ARA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SAB-01 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-03 H-02

INR-07 L-02 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-02 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15

USIA-15 MC-02 ACDA-10 AID-05 /083 W ----- 066363

R 081245Z MAY 75 FM AMEMBASSY LA PAZ

FM AMEMBASSY LA PAZ TO SECSTATE WASHDC 6572 INFO AMEMBASSY PANAMA USCINCSO

UNCLAS LA PAZ 3172

E.O. 11652: N/A

 $TAGS: PFOR, \, PN, \, PQ, \, BL$

SUBJ: BOLIVIAN SUPPORT FOR PANAMA'S POSITION ON

CANAL TREATY NEGOTIATIONS.

REF: PANAMA 2635

1. DR. JORGE ILLUECA, POLITICAL ADVISOR TO PANAMANIAN FOREIGN MINISTRY, MET WITH PRESIDENT BANZER ON MAY 6 AND HANDED THE PRESIDENT A PERSONAL MESSAGE FROM GENERAL OMAR TORRIJOS. SUBSEQUENTLY, ILLUECA INFORMED THE LA PAZ PRESS THAT BANZER HAD EXPRESSED BOLIVIA'S "FULL SUPPORT FOR PANAMA'S STRUGGLE TO OBTAIN ITS SOVEREIGN CLAIMS WITH RELATION TO THE CANAL AND THE ZONE...". AT THE SAME TIME, ILLUECA EXPRESSED PANAMANIAN SUPPORT FOR BOLIVIA'S CURRENT CAMPAIGN TO GAIN A DIRECT, SOVERIGN ACCESS TO THE PACIFIC OCEAN BY NEGOTIATIONS WITH ITS WESTERN NEIGHBORS.

2. COMMENT: ILLUECA'S VERSION OF THE INTERVIEW WITH PRESIDENT BANZER RECEIVED FULL COVERAGE IN ALL OF THE MORNING NEWSPAPERS ON MAY 7. SIGNIFICANTLY, HOWEVER, NEITHER THE PRESIDENCY NOR THE FOREIGN MINISTRY HAS ISSUED ANY STATEMENT ON ILLUECA'S VISIT, REFLECTING BOLIVIA'S DESIRE TO AVOID OVERT INVOLVEMENT IN THE PANAMA CANAL ISSUE. IT WAS SUFFICIENT FOR BOLIVIA'S UNCLASSIFIED

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PURPOSES THAT ILLUECA MADE THE ANALOGY, WHICH IS OFTEN CITED

IN OFFICIAL BOLIVIAN CIRCLES, BETWEEN THE U.S PANAMANIAN
RENEGOTIATION OF THEIR TREATY RELATIONS AND BOLIVIA'S DESIRE
TO RENEGOTIATE ITS EXISTING TREATIES WITH PERU AND CHILE
CONCERNING THE PACIFIC LITORAL.
STEDMAN

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Message Attributes

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Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED

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Subject: BOLIVIAN SUPPORT FOR PANAMA'S POSITION ON CANAL TREATY NEGOTIATIONS.

TAGS: PFOR, PN, PQ, BL, (BANZER SUAREZ, HUGO), (ILLUECA, JORGE)

To: STATE

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